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France-Biafra: Foreign Minister Schumann's privately expressed views indicate that the new government will continue De Gaulle's strong pro-Biafran policy.

In his first substantive talks with US officials on the Nigerian civil war, Schumann showed himself to be emotionally committed to the Biafran cause and critical of US actions to resolve the crisis. He referred several times to his experience as chairman of the Committee for Aid to Biafra, an influential private French organization.

The new minister also expressed his disappointment that the US had not given more help to Biafra. He suggested that the US provide direct unilateral humanitarian support by ignoring or bypassing aid conditions laid down by Lagos, a tactic presently being pursued by the French Red Cross. Schumann made clear that he was not suggesting that the US recognize Biafra and stated that French policy also "excludes" recognition.

For the long run, Schumann did not exclude a single Nigeria--with guarantees for the Ibos--as a solution to the war. He argued, however, that the Biafrans would not accept such a solution until they believe that they are sufficiently understood and supported by the outside world.

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Paris has steadfastly supported Biafra diplomatically. With the fall of De Gaulle, there was considerable speculation that the French position would be altered, but all signs now point to continued support for Biafra.

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